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Canada - Communist China: Ottawa and Peking have  
narrowed their differences.

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CANADA - COMMUNIST CHINA: OTTAWA AND PEKING HAVE NARROWED THEIR DIFFERENCES OVER ESTABLISHING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS.

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THE SESSION OF THE RECOGNITION TALKS IN STOCKHOLM LAST WEEK WAS MARKED BY A "MORE TRUE NEGOTIATING" ATMOSPHERE THAN HAD PREVAILED IN EARLIER MEETINGS. A CANADIAN EMBASSY OFFICER IN WASHINGTON, WHO GAVE THE INFORMATION TO STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS, EXPLAINED THIS AS "GIVE-AND-TAKE HAGGLING" OVER THE WORDING OF A CANADIAN MINUTE THAT ATTEMPTS TO GLOSS OVER THE QUESTION OF PEKING'S SOVEREIGNTY OVER TAIWAN.

THE HANDLING OF THE TAIWAN ISSUE HAS BEEN THE MAJOR OBSTACLE TO PROGRESS AT THE TALKS. AT THIS POINT, PEKING APPARENTLY PREFERS TO LEAVE CANADA'S POSITION ON THE ISLAND'S STATUS AMBIGUOUS. THE CHINESE NEGOTIATOR TOLD HIS CANADIAN COUNTERPART THAT A JOINT STATEMENT RECOGNIZING PEKING'S SOVEREIGNTY OVER TAIWAN WAS "UNNECESSARY."

THE CANADIAN RESPONDED THAT, IF THE QUESTION OF TAIWAN IS IGNORED IN A FINAL COMMUNIQUE, OTTAWA WOULD WANT TO RELEASE A STATEMENT NOTING THAT IT HAS NOT ENDORSED CHINESE TERRITORIAL CLAIMS TO THE ISLAND.

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